



## Organic Council Meeting and Tours Planned July 9th

**Release Date:** June 25, 2013

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MADISON – The next quarterly meeting of the Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council will be hosted by the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (MFAI). The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) welcomes interested individuals to attend the meeting on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> and participate in two planned tours.

The Council meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. at W2493 County Road ES, East Troy. The meeting will feature reports from state and federal government agencies and updates on priority issues such as the Food Safety Modernization Act, Farm Bill and genetically modified organisms.

At 11:30 a.m., David Andrews, MFAI Executive Director, and his staff will give a tour of the Institute. At 1:30 p.m., the Council will travel to Krusen Grass Farm, the pasture-based organic dairy farm owned and operated by Altfried Krusenbaum, a Council member whose term is ending this year.

The twelve Council members work throughout the year to support organic production, processing and purchasing opportunities for Wisconsin farmers, processors and consumers. At the July meeting, four Council members will begin their three-year term of service including Elena Byrne, Jennifer Casey, Steve Pincus and Inga Witscher.

Byrne is a representative of a certified organic business. She is the outreach coordinator for the Organic Processing Institute in Middleton. Byrne has a PhD in nutrition education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Institute's goals are to expand opportunities for the organic business sector in the Upper Midwest.

Casey is a returning Council member and serves as the consumer representative. She is a registered dietitian with the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center in Milwaukee. She is active in the Milwaukee sustainable food movement and is a member of the Slow Food Wisconsin Southeast.

Pincus serves as a farmer representative. Pincus and his wife grow about 50 acres of vegetables and berries, selling wholesale and through community supported agriculture shares. Previously, he was an initial founder and manager of the Outpost Natural Food Coop in Milwaukee.

Witscher serves as an at-large representative on the Council. She is an organic dairy farmer and cheesemaker. Witscher is also a videographer and is the co-creator and host of "Around the Farm Table," a web-based video series.

To learn more, contact DATCP's Laura Paine at 608-224-5120 or [laura.paine@wi.gov](mailto:laura.paine@wi.gov). For additional information on the Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council, visit [http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Organic\\_Farming/Advisory\\_Council](http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Organic_Farming/Advisory_Council).

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